



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE



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USDA TO SURVEY FARMERS' PLANTED CROP ACREAGE

[RICHMOND, VIRGINIA] – How many acres of corn, cotton, and soybeans did farmers plant this growing season? Which percentage of those acres were planted to biotech varieties? Will actual planted acreage be above or below farmers' reported planting intentions? These are just a few of the critical questions the Virginia Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be asking more than 1,300 producers statewide as part of the June Agricultural Survey.

"The June Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey, is one of the most important surveys conducted each year by NASS," explained Herman Ellison, Director of the NASS, Virginia Field Office. "This survey will provide the first clear indication of the potential production and supply of major commodities in the United States for the 2007 crop year.

"Data from the June Agricultural Survey benefit farmers by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical business decisions. When evaluating selling and storage options, this survey will be an important source of information for producers," added Ellison.

Beginning the end of May, NASS will contact selected Virginia producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on the total number of acres planted and acres planted to specific commodities, including corn, cotton, and soybeans. NASS will also collect data on quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on-farm. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then published in a series of USDA reports, including the annual *Acreage* report and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on June 29.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Ellison. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Virginia Field Office at 1-800-772-0670.

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